

# Around the House

Volume 5, Issue 6

November/December 2008



## Housing and Community Services Department Mission

*... to provide housing and  
related services  
to benefit the citizens and  
neighborhoods of  
Wichita*



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## Year End Notes

The City of Wichita receives annual funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) programs. The Housing and Community Services Department is responsible for administering these federal allocations. In the last issue of *Around the House*, there was a list of programs which use these funds, such as home repair and first time homebuyers. In order to receive these funds, the City has to prepare a Consolidated Plan to identify community needs which can be addressed through funding. The Housing and Community Services Department is responsible for preparing the 2009-2013 Consolidated Plan, which will guide the City's funding decisions over that period, and **we want your input!**

Inside this newsletter you will find a copy of a survey which you are asked to complete. This survey will give you a chance to identify what you think will be the City's priority needs for the next five years.

Community input is important and we hope you will take the time to respond to the survey. Following is a summary of the federal guidelines to be followed for funding available through the Consolidated Plan.

### CDBG-funded programs must meet one of the following **national objectives**:

1. Benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons
2. Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight
3. Meet a need having a particular urgency (referred to as urgent need)

**HOME Investment Partnerships** is the largest Federal block grant to state and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households. The program's flexibility allows states and local governments to use HOME funds for grants, direct loans, loan guarantees or other forms of credit enhancement, or rental assistance or security deposits. The HOME program requires a 25% match from non-Federal funds.

**Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)** is designed to help improve the quality of existing emergency shelters for the homeless, to make available additional shelters, to meet the costs of operating shelters, to provide essential social services to homeless individuals, and to help prevent homelessness.

Note: Low mod refers to persons whose family income is 80% or lower of the area median income.

Instructions for completing the survey are printed on the back. You can also print a copy of the survey from our website at [www.wichita.gov/cityoffices/housing](http://www.wichita.gov/cityoffices/housing).

All surveys must be returned by **November 30, 2008** to:

**Mary K. Vaughn, Director  
Housing and Community  
Services Department  
332 N. Riverview  
Wichita, KS 67203**

**Or by fax to: 316-462-3719**

**Or by email to:**  
[mkvaughn@wichita.gov](mailto:mkvaughn@wichita.gov)



## From the Director's Chair Mary K. Vaughn

I recently heard someone make an interesting observation about our society. We were talking about how the stores start putting up Halloween decorations in early September, and then jump straight to Christmas in October. The person said, "we are teaching our children to go from give me treats (at Halloween) to give me toys (at Christmas). We skip right over the holiday that is for giving thanks for what we have.

I thought that was worth sharing with those of you who receive assisted housing, and I encourage you to reflect

on the importance of that assistance. There are many in our community who don't have housing or whose housing conditions are unsafe. Along with being thankful for your housing, comes the responsibility to follow the guidelines which are required for you to keep that housing! The last thing we ever want to do is evict someone or terminate their assistance, but we must follow the guidelines established by the Federal government for our housing programs.

In addition to the blessing of safe housing, we should also be thankful for our freedoms as Americans. By the

time this newsletter is printed we will have elected a new President of the United States, as well as other local and national leaders. It is my hope that everyone who is of voting age, exercised their right to vote—regardless of your choice of candidates.

We have much to be thankful for and it is my hope that you will pause and express appreciation for those things—even in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the holidays!

*Have a Safe, Thankful  
Holiday Season!*

## Notice to Public Housing Residents

During the weeks of February 2nd, 2009 (Monday through Thursday) and February 9th, 2009 (Monday and Tuesday), the HUD contract inspector will be in Wichita to evaluate 25% of the Wichita Housing Authority Public Housing properties. A **random selection** will be made to decide which rental units will be visited. **Public Housing staff cannot tell you beforehand that your City owned rental unit will or will not be selected, so we advise all Public Housing residents to please make the appropriate arrangements to be prepared to be inspected.** Inspections will start at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. during the above weeks. If you are not home, a representative from the Wichita Housing Authority may enter your property along with the inspector, if your rental unit is chosen. Residents will be notified with more exact dates, by their developments, with future rent statements.

Take advantage of this advance notice to thoroughly clean your rental unit and yard area to remove any unwanted items from your residence. This is also a good time to check the operation of your smoke detector by depressing the test button. Should your detector not sound, please call for maintenance at 462-3789 between 8 am and 5 pm on business days. As always, broken electrical switches, plug-in receptacles and loose or broken light fixtures should also be reported to maintenance immediately. It is also important that house yards are mowed and trimmed around the fences and sidewalks. Inspection scores are sent directly to HUD Headquarters in Washington, D.C. and negative reports can influence future funding of the Public Housing Program and the residency of tenants with violations. Resident's help in this matter will be greatly appreciated by staff.

HUD only requires the inspections to be done every two years, if the overall condition of rental units scores in the higher category. Otherwise, the inspections are done on an annual basis. It is in the interest of both staff and residents that the best possible effort is made to have clean and decent units prior to the inspections to prevent unnecessary future inspections.

**Please mark your calendar for  
February 2nd through  
February 10th, 2009.**



## Behind the Scenes ...

Instead of highlighting staff in this space, we are highlighting a young Section 8 family member!

Sixteen year old Miranda Weeks won first place in the fire safety poster contest. The theme of the contest was Prevent Home Fires. Miranda's colorful poster included the following great tips:



We're proud of  
our people!

1. Have a Fire Escape plan, and make sure you PRACTICE it!!
2. Make sure there are smoke alarms in EVERY room.
3. Never leave something cooking unattended.
4. Keep candles away from flammable items, and out of children's reach.

**Congratulations Miranda!!**

## WELCOME

We have welcomed one new employee since the last newsletter: **Diann Brand** has joined our staff as Housing Specialist in the Family Self-Sufficiency program. Welcome! We also have a promotion to celebrate. **Tiffanie Johnson** was promoted to the position of Management Analyst in the Community Investments Division. Congratulations!

## Section 8 News

### Family Self-Sufficiency News

It is time to celebrate successes in the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program! During 2008:

- \* 16 families graduated from the FSS program, and
- \* 4 families became homeowners

These achievements are the result of hard work by the FSS staff and the hard work of the participants themselves who stay focused on their goals and utilize the resources which are available to them. However a little known source of support for the FSS program is the Program Coordinating Committee (PCC). These volunteers meet on a regular basis and provide resources and services which the staff use to help participants reach their self-sufficiency goals. As the current year ends (and in the spirit of giving thanks), we recognize our PCC members:

- ♦ Kevin Andrews, Urban League of Kansas
- ♦ Maggie Flanders, Community Housing Services
- ♦ Andy Bias, Mennonite Housing
- ♦ Sherdeill Breathett Sr., Sedgwick County Economic Development
- ♦ Frances Ervin, Educational Opportunity Centers
- ♦ Vanessa Galbreath

- ♦ Wes Galyon, Wichita Area Builders Association
- ♦ Tim Hagan, Consumer Credit Counseling Services
- ♦ Teketa Harding, Capitol Federal Savings
- ♦ Margaret Harris, Wichita Area Technical College
- ♦ Sekou Kambui, Child Start
- ♦ Janet Lloyd-Williams, INTRUST Bank
- ♦ Craig Perbeck, Kansas Dept. of Social & Rehabilitation Services
- ♦ Randy Phelps
- ♦ Angela Lampe, Workforce Alliance
- ♦ Alex Robinson, USD 259
- ♦ Joyce Stockham, Career Development
- ♦ Chris Palmer, FSS Participant

Thank you for your generous support of the FSS program!

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### SECTION 8 LANDLORDS

#### Inclement Weather Policy

Effective November 1, 2008 the Section 8 Inclement Weather Policy regarding exterior defective paint problems, will go into effect, and will remain in effect through May 31, 2009. Section 8 landlords will be approved for extensions to correct exterior paint deficiencies only until May 31, 2009.

(Inclement Weather Policy, cont'd)

Please note that exterior extensions apply only to Section 8 dwelling units already in the program and will not apply to initial preoccupancy inspections.

### MEETING REMINDERS

#### Landlords

Please note the enclosed flier which announces the annual landlord meeting on Friday, November 21, at 1:30 p.m.—Hughes Metropolitan Complex. We look forward to seeing you there!

#### Section 8 and FSS Clients

There is just one meeting left this year, for Family Self-Sufficiency participants. Please note the following details and plan to attend!

#### **2008 FSS Workshops 6:00 pm**

November 6  
"Understanding Your Escrow Account"

#### **2008 Homeowners Alumni Meetings 5:30 pm**

Atwater City Hall  
For current Section 8 homeowners!  
November 17

### Current HAP Payment Schedule

<i>Month</i>	<i>Mail Date</i>
DECEMBER 2008	NOVEMBER 25, 2008
JANUARY, 2009	JANUARY 5, 2009

**HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
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Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
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Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5

*We're On The Web!*  
[www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Housing](http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Housing)

## Holiday Assistance

If you or your family are in need of assistance during the upcoming holidays, one of the following three programs may be of interest.

### **Operation Holiday**

(Inter-Faith Ministries)

- Provides winter coats, food vouchers, blankets and toys.
- Applications from Nov. 5-Nov. 26. Must live in Sedgwick County and bring ID, proof of address, social security number & birth date for all household members, immunization records of children, proof of income for past 3 months and contact information.
- Call 264-9303 for application locations and times.

### **The Salvation Army**

- Provides food vouchers and toys for families with children. Senior citizens, special needs families and individuals may receive a Star of Hope household gift.

- Must bring ID for all family members, proof of income for last 30 days for each adult household member and proof of address. School records are required for all children in the household.

### **Catholic Charities**

- Provides toys, hats and mittens for children and food packages for families and individuals.
- Applications will be accepted at 8510 W. 12th, Suite 130, from November 19-21, 9:00 am to 5:30 pm.
- Must bring ID for the applicant, documentation with social security number and birth date for each adult and child in the household, proof of household income for the past 30 days and proof of address.

**Note:** You may only apply for one of the above programs.

Call 2-1-1 for more information on these programs.

### **Atwater Neighborhood City Hall Community Conversations!**

#### **"We Are Family"**

**Monday, November 17th, 6:30pm**

Come and enjoy the laughter as we explore family relationships that can "crack" us up or make us cry. We will be sharing effective relationship building tips that can **help you keep or take back your family.**

#### **"Sharing Family Memories"**

**Wednesday, November 19th, 6:30pm**

What family relationships, lessons, traditions make you who you are today? We will hear from **Melody McCray—Miller, LaVonta Williams and Patricia Houston**, leaders in our community, about the **importance of family** in the preservation of the family and the future of our community.

*Conversations for Adults Only ~ no child care available.*

**Call 303-8017 to save your seat at either of these events!**